

Assessment for Decision Making: *Making Decisions*

MOMENTS IN ALMA'S DAY

Alma is a preschool teacher. Let's take a look at some moments in her day.

SCENARIO 1:

Near the water table, Alma observes attentively as the children repeatedly pour water into a clear tube and watch the water go down the tube. She thinks to herself: "Tomorrow I will set up the wire grid in the water table, with clear tubes and funnels attached to it in different positions. Children will have more opportunities to explore how to move water in different directions."

SCENARIO 2:

In the block area, Alma sees Santiago moving around haphazardly and throwing blocks. She steps in, "Santiago, the blocks aren't for throwing because they might hurt someone or break something. It looks like you need some help finding something to do. Would you like to build with blocks or play at the water table?"

SCENARIO 3:

Near the small manipulative table, Alma notices that Lily is counting shells, "One, two, three, four..." but is double counting some shells. She decides to scaffold Lily's counting skills. "Lily, let's put the shells in a line. Now let's count them again: one, two..."

Let's think about the three different scenarios with Alma. In each scenario, Alma observed children and learned about their abilities and needs. She used this evidence to make intentional decisions.

- What did Alma notice?
- What aspects of children's development was Alma paying attention to?
- What decision did she make?